

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/814,136

Examiner

Timothy L. Rude

Applicant(s)

KANEKO, TSUYOSHI

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 13 November 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,7,9-13,17,18,27 and 28.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

David Nelms

Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims

Claims 1, 3, 7, and 9-11 are amended. Claims 4-6, 8, 14-16, and 19-26 are canceled by Applicant.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 7, 9-13, 17, 18, 27 and 28 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to base claim 1, relevant prior art of record did not disclose, alone or in combination, the connection structure between optical fibers as claimed comprising a connecting part on a base structure joined to a plurality of optical fibers wherein only an end surface of a core being joined to the connecting part in at least one of the plurality of optical fibers.

The closest prior art combination is Hanneman USPAT 6,532,317 B2 in view of Brady et al (Brady) USPAT 6,034,405.

Hanneman discloses a connection structure between optical fibers, comprising: a substrate a plurality of optical fibers, 30 and 29, each having end surfaces; a base member [portion below 32] provided over the substrate [col. 2, lines 10-55]; and a

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connecting part, 32, provided on a top surface of the base member and joined to each end surface of the plurality of optical fibers [col. 12, lines 3-68].

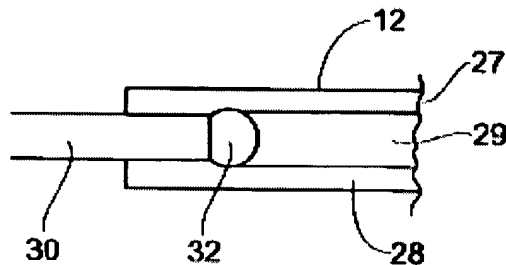


Fig. 4

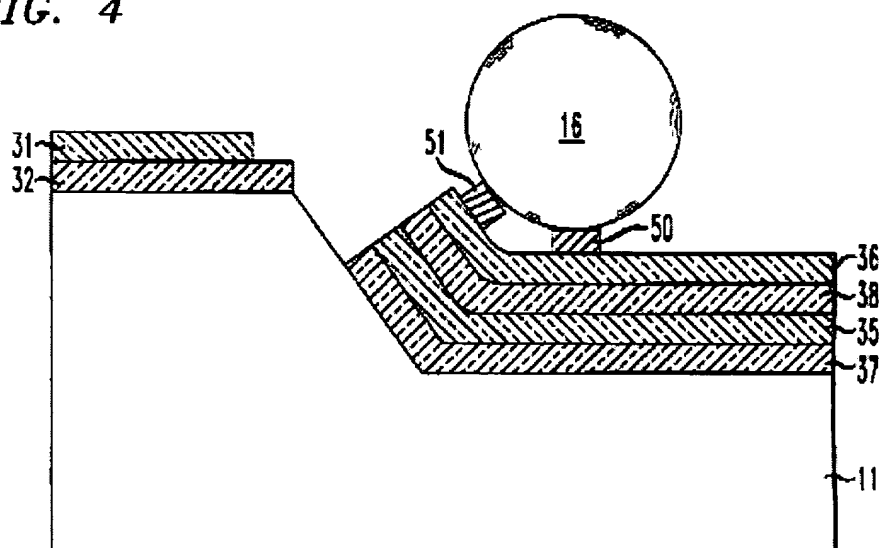
However, Hanneman discloses a connection structure that is substantially circular which would necessarily rest on a circular upper surface of a base member, and Applicant acknowledges that the shape of the base member of Applicant's invention may be any shape so long as it has a top surface on which the connecting part can be provided (specification, page 3, [0068]).

Hanneman discloses the connection structure between optical fibers according to claim 1 wherein the plurality of optical fibers are provided over the substrate.

Hanneman discloses the connection structure between optical fibers according to claim 1, the top surface of the base member being a flat surface [col. 2, lines 10-55].

Brady teaches the use of a base member, 50, having a diameter smaller than the diameter of the connecting part, 16, as a member suitable for his invention of making a strong bond to a silicon substrate [abstract].

FIG. 4



As to claims 2-3, 7, 9-13, 17, 18, 27, and 28, they are directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 1 with allowable subject matter above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy L. Rude whose telephone number is (571) 272-2301. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David C. Nelms can be reached on (571) 272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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Timothy L Rude
Examiner
Art Unit 2871



David Nelms
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